

HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM DEPUTY MAYOR ATKINS

Greetings during the holiday season to you and your family!

This year I've decided to put together a special holiday issue of the District Three newsletter, and I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you how much I've enjoyed serving as your City Council representative for another year. I'm honored to have been re-elected in March of this year to serve you for another four-year term. I look forward to sharing my vision of what the next four years holds on December 6, 2004, when I am again sworn in to office. I invite you to join me and your fellow District Three residents and business owners at this celebration.

I also want to take the opportunity in early February to provide a State of District Three Address to share with you what we have accomplished working together these last four years and where we want to go together as we get into a new year. I will provide details on this event in the January newsletter.

But for now, I simply want to wish you, your family, friends and neighbors a safe, relaxing and happy holiday season.

I have had a number of people ask me how they can help out those less fortunate during the holiday season. On the next two pages I've presented a list of some worthy organizations that are hosting special events or charitable food, clothing and toy drives during the holiday season. I know there are many more than I have listed here for you to consider, but I hope this is helpful.

Council District Three Swearing In Ceremony

Event: Swearing In Ceremony for the Mayor of San Diego, Council Districts 1, 3, 5 and 7, and the City Attorney

Date: Monday, December 6, 2004

Time: 10:00am

Place: Golden Hall, City Concourse, 202 C Street

Admission is free and open to the public.

And on this page and page four I've provided details on three San Diego holiday traditions—Mama's Kitchen's Tree of Life, Balboa Park December Nights, and the North Park Toyland Parade—which are proudly hosted in Council District Three. I hope you'll consider attending all three great events.

However you choose to celebrate, I wish you love and peace in your life and in our community.

Warmly,



MAMA'S KITCHEN TREE OF LIFE DEC. 1ST

On Wednesday, December 1st, the United States will commemorate the fight against AIDS with World AIDS Day. On that same day, Mama's Kitchen, a local meal-delivery service in San Diego County dedicated to providing meals to men, women and children affected by AIDS, will hold its 13th annual Tree of Life commemoration.

Tree of Life will once again be held in the courtyard of the Village Hillcrest Retail Center on Fifth Avenue between University Avenue and Washington Street in Hillcrest. The event, which welcomes elected officials and community members from around San Diego County begins at 6pm, and culminates with a ceremonial tree lighting. Portions of the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display, a memorial candlelight vigil will be held, and there will be a performance by the Gay Men's Chorus of San Diego.

Tree of Life honors those who have lost their lives to AIDS and gives strength and hope to those currently affected. Personalized ornaments commemorating loved ones will be displayed on a holiday tree in the courtyard throughout the holiday season. For more information, call 619/233-6262.

HELPING OTHERS DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Scott Carlson Thanksgiving Dinner

Over a decade ago, San Diego AIDS activist Scott Carlson began a tradition of serving Thanksgiving dinner to those living with HIV/AIDS. This year, the Imperial Court de San Diego, together with the First Unitarian Church, will be serving meals to people with HIV/AIDS on Thanksgiving day, Thursday, November 25th, from 11:30am to 2:30pm, at the First Unitarian Church, 4190 Front Street.



Organizers are asking for contributions to help underwrite the costs of the meal. A \$30 donation will feed five people. Please make donations payable to the Imperial Court de San Diego, with "Scott Carlson Dinner" in memo section, and mail to:

Imperial Court de San Diego
c/o Emperor Chris and Empress Lala
3939 Illinois St., #4G
San Diego, CA 92104

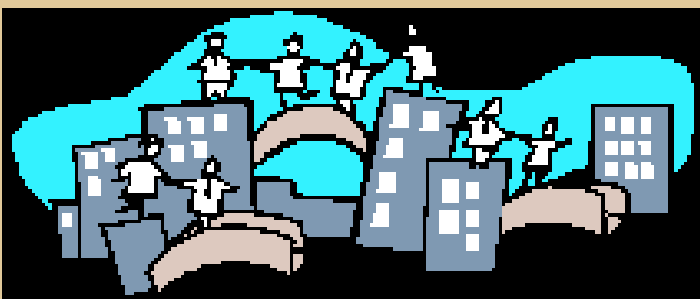
San Diego Rescue Mission Special Holiday Meals

The San Diego Rescue Mission will hold both Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday meals at their 120 Elm Street site in downtown San Diego.

The Thanksgiving meal will be served on Saturday, November 30th, while the Christmas meal is slated for Saturday, December 18th. Both dinners are scheduled from 2-5pm.

The Mission is asking for donations of hygiene products for men, as well as nutritious snacks such as Power Bars and other healthy food items.

For more information, or to donate or volunteer, call Marlene at 619/687-3720, or Evan at 619/819-1825.



Salvation Army

The Salvation Army will be holding special holiday dinners on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 25th, and Christmas Day, Saturday, Dec. 25th, in Golden Hall at the San Diego City Concourse, adjacent to the City Administration Building at 202 C Street. Doors open at 11:30am for both meals.

Donations of toys and money vouchers for food have been requested. Volunteers are not needed for Thanksgiving, but 400 volunteers are needed for the Christmas meal.

Other holiday programs underway at the Salvation Army are Adopt-A-Family For Christmas, Toys for Tots, and their Toy and Joy Shop.

For more information, or to make a donation and/or volunteer, call Valerie at 619/231-6000, ext. 1226.



Senior Community Centers Thanksgiving Dinners and Special Holiday Gift Opportunities

Senior Community Centers will be hosting Thanksgiving dinners at two locations this year: at their downtown facility at Broadway and Ninth Avenue, and at the Potiker Family Senior Residence at Market and 14th streets.

Both dinners will take place on Thanksgiving day, Thurs., Nov. 25th. There will be two seatings at the 9th and Broadway site at 11:30am and 12:30pm; and one at the Potiker facility at noon.

Financial donations are always accepted, as are donations of canned foods, as well as new or used sheets, pillows and blankets for homeless seniors.

For the December holiday season, Senior Community Centers is asking people to consider giving someone the gift of a donation made in their name for \$40, which covers the cost of feeding a senior for the entire month of December. A gift card honoring the donation will be mailed out to the person receiving the gift.

Volunteers are needed after November 26th. For more information on volunteering or making a donation, call Paul at 619/235-6572, ext. 301.

HELPING OTHERS DURING THE HOLIDAYS

YWCA Holiday Drive

The YWCA will once again host a Holiday Drive to help make the holidays brighter for women and children who have been victimized by homelessness and domestic violence.

Due to the overwhelming response they received to last year's Holiday Shop Toy Drive, the YWCA has ample toys to provide to the children this year. This year they will be focusing their efforts on collecting the following items:

- K-Mart, Wal-Mart, Target or Mervyn's gift certificates in increments of \$10, \$20 and \$25
- Ralph's or Von's gift certificates
- AMC movie tickets
- Sea World and San Diego Zoo tickets
- Stockings and stocking stuffers
- Gifts for teenagers (i.e. CD players, music, makeup kits, jewelry, video games)
- Gifts for women (i.e. bath sets, jewelry, journals, makeup kits, pajamas)
- Trolley tokens
- Monetary donations



They would also like to provide a dinner party for the 70 residents in their Passages program, a two-year residential program for homeless women. Items needed for the dinner are: 3 turkeys, 1 ham, potatoes, fresh vegetables (green beans, carrots, yams), salad, salad dressing, cranberries (6 cans), pumpkin pies (10 baked goods), and fresh fruit.

For additional information or to make a donation, please contact Caitlyn McTaggart at (619) 239-0355, ext. 250, or email cmctaggart@ywcasandiego.org.

Holiday Drive To Benefit LGBT Youth

The Hillcrest Youth Center (HYC), a drop-in center for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth, is always in need of donated items, especially for homeless youth.

Please consider making a donation from the HYC Wish List which appears on their webpage at www.youthcentersd.com. Just click on the HYC Wish List icon at the bottom of the home page.

To make a donation to the Hillcrest Youth Center, call Shawn at 619/692-2077, ext. 204.

St. Vincent de Paul Holiday Meals

St. Vincent de Paul will host holiday meals for the homeless during the Christmas weekend.

Two special meals will be served on Christmas Eve (Fri., Dec. 24th), with lunch going from 10am-1pm, and dinner from 4-7pm. A special Christmas breakfast (Sat., Dec. 25th) will be offered from 7am to 10am, and lunch will be served the day after Christmas (Sun., Dec. 26th) from 10am-1pm.

All meals will be served at the 1501 Imperial Avenue site.

Volunteers are always welcome and are needed. Donations of hygiene products, gift certificates and blankets are being requested for homeless teenagers.



For more information, call Jenny at 619/645-6413.

Operation Homefront's Holiday Support For Military Families

More than any other time of the year, holidays are particularly important for active-duty military families who are separated from their loved ones.

Operation Homefront is currently collecting care package items to send to our troops overseas. They are collecting trial size items of the following: eye drops, hand sanitizer, sunscreen, deodorant, bar soap, insect repellant, beef jerky, Slim Jims, playing cards, pens and pencils, notepads, stamps, international phone cards, snack items that won't melt or be crushed, gum, mints, hard candy, canned potato chips, tooth brushes, magazines, AA and AAA batteries, and cards and letters are especially welcome.

Drop off locations in District Three are at the Bank of America branch offices in Hillcrest and North Park. Toys can also be dropped off at these two locations for the annual toy drive for children of active-duty military personnel.

You can also sponsor a military family for the holidays. Local businesses, organizations and families are invited to sponsor a military family for the holidays by providing a food basket for a holiday meal (or gift card equivalent) and toys for the children. Please email sharp18@cox.net for more information on how to help.

If you are a military family in need and your spouse is deployed, you can contact Operation Homefront at 1-866-424-5210, or email sd@operationhomefront.net.

27th ANNUAL 'DECEMBER NIGHTS' DEC. 3RD AND 4TH

CITY EXPANDS BALBOA PARK EVENT TO INCLUDE DAYTIME EVENTS ON SATURDAY;
FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT, FOOD-TASTING ADDED

The City of San Diego has expanded December Nights this year to include a full day of festivities on Saturday, December 4th. The city, which took over operating duties of the popular, free Balboa Park event, has added the daytime hours to reduce crowding and to allow more San Diegans to enjoy the park during this special annual event.

The City of San Diego, the San Diego Business Improvement District (BID) Council, and the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership have been working together over the past year to once again--for the 27th year--give San Diegans a first-class holiday event.

The festivities will kick off at 5pm on Friday, December 3rd, but will remain open an hour longer than usual until 10pm. Then the following day, the festival will reopen at noon and conclude at 10pm.

December Nights offers visitors the opportunity to visit Balboa Park museums free of charge after 5pm on Friday and Saturday. As in years past, the Speckels Organ Pavilion will offer carolers, local choirs and other performers. The Spanish Village will once again offer artisans with crafts, music and food, and the Pacific Relations Cottages will host the International Christmas Festival, which will showcase multi-cultural dancing and music. And of course, the international cottages will cook up ethnic cuisine for sale at a reasonable cost.



The city has added some new and exciting attractions:

--The Palisades Midway, a carnival-like midway located in the Palisades parking lot below the House of Pacific Relations International Cottages, will offer amusement rides, games, jugglers, clowns and entertainers for younger San Diegans.

-- San Diego's finest restaurants will serve the public at the Cabrillo Bridge Food Tasting exhibit. Food booths will line Cabrillo Bridge at Laurel Street.

-- The Cascades Holiday Marketplace will feature crafts, food and entertainment from around the world. This new center of activity will be located near the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center.

For more information, log on to www.balboapark.org.

TOYLAND PARADE SAT., DEC. 4TH

The 41st annual Toyland Parade is going back to its roots in terms of its name and its shortened route.

The annual holiday parade in North Park, sponsored by the North Park Lions Club and a coalition of community members and businesses, will take place on Sat., Dec. 4th, from 11am to approximately 1:30pm. The parade will proceed east on University Avenue from Utah Street to 30th Street. There will also be a band competition at North Park Community Park starting at 9:30am.

Corporate sponsors include Tom Carter/Carter Reese & Associates, Cox Communications, DR Horton/Western Pacific Housing, Firefighters Local #145, Bud Fischer, San Diego Chargers, and SDG&E.



Deputy Mayor Atkins spends time with North Park residents Beth Swersie, Nellie Harris, and Casey and Patrick Harris at the North Park Toyland Parade.

For more information, call 619/252-7918.